BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

ReadNowBC

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2007EDU0101-000883
July 4, 2007

Ministry of Education
Ministry of Advanced Education

B.C. STUDENTS HONOURED FOR SKILLS EXCELLENCE

VICTORIA – In a special ceremony, Education Minister Shirley Bond and Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell honoured B.C. students who were ranked at the top of their trade at the 2007 Canadian Skills Competition.

"The students we are recognizing today are role models for thousands of students all around B.C. who are training for careers in the trades," said Bond. "Our government continues to support these students through significant investments in trades and technology training programs."

Twenty B.C. secondary and post-secondary students captured medals: three gold, 11 silver and six bronze. The medals were for excellence in: 3-D character computer animation, architectural technology and design, baking, cabinetmaking, carpentry, electrical wiring, electronics, information technology (IT) and network support, website development, mechanical computer-aided design and drafting (CADD), robotics, welding, women's apparel design and workplace safety.

"It is inspiring to see so many of our young people making important decisions about their careers, and excelling at such a high level," said Coell. "Their achievements have set a high standard of excellence for all of us, and serve to spotlight the exciting opportunities that trades and technical careers offer."

Today's ceremony afforded some students an opportunity to demonstrate or display their winning projects. All students were acknowledged, including carpenter Jace Albrecht who won gold and "best of region" – he netted the highest score for the province. Albrecht is currently a student at Okanagan College. In secondary school, he took advantage of the Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA) program.

"This is a fantastic way to recognize these young people for their achievements in their trade and at the national level," said Rob Chioccarello, executive director of Skills Canada BC. "We thank the Province for hosting this great event."

The 13th Canadian Skills Competition was held June 6-9 in Saskatoon and featured over 500 students from across the country. B.C. sent 35 students to compete in 30 contest areas. The province won a medal in 53 per cent of its opportunities. The team placed third nationally, behind Ontario and Quebec.

-more-

The students advanced to the national competition after winning regional and provincial Skills Canada competitions. Eligible winners from the national contest move on to the World Skills Competition held every other year. The next World Skills Competition is Nov. 14-21, 2007, in Numazu City, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan. Canada will host this contest in Calgary, Sept. 8-11, 2009.

In 2006-07, over 2,000 students in 32 school districts participated in an Accelerated Credit Enrolment in Industry Training (ACE IT) program. ACE IT offers students the chance to gain level one industry certification, which qualifies them to work as apprentices. Students get help transitioning from the classroom to the worksite while earning their high school diploma and learning specific trade skills. ACE IT students often go on to SSA, another trades-training program in B.C. schools. There are currently over 1,500 active apprentices aged 15 and older in SSA.

The Province is committed to providing trades and technology training and opportunities to help achieve its goals of becoming the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent and creating more jobs per capita in B.C. than anywhere else in Canada.

-30-

1 factsheet(s) attached.

Media contact:

Lara Perzoff
Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963
250 920-9040 (cell)

Corinna Filion
Communications Manager
Advanced Education
250 952-6400
250 812-7977 (cell)

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

ReadNowBC

FACTSHEET

2007EDU0101-000883
July 4, 2007

Ministry of Education
Ministry of Advanced Education

B.C. STUDENTS SHINE AT NATIONAL TRADES COMPETITION

Twenty B.C. secondary and post-secondary students won medals at the 13th Canadian Skills Competition in Saskatoon, June 6–9. The three gold medal winners were in the categories of architectural technology and design, cabinetmaking and carpentry.

Name: Jace Albrecht
Medal: Gold (Best in Region)
Category: Carpentry – post secondary
School: Okanagan College
Residence/Hometown: Peachland

Name: Tyler Ballantyne
Teammate(s): Philip Biebach, Dylan Hutchinson and Owen Remmen
Medal: Silver
Category: Robotics – secondary
School: Georges P. Vanier secondary
Residence/Hometown: Courtenay

Name: Philip Biebach
Teammate(s): Tyler Ballantyne, Dylan Hutchinson and Owen Remmen
Medal: Silver
Category: Robotics – secondary
School: Georges P. Vanier secondary
Residence/Hometown: Denman Island

Name: Kyle Bramhoff
Medal: Bronze
Category: Welding – post secondary
School: Kwantlen University College
Residence/Hometown: North Delta

Name: Lydia Bush
Medal: Gold
Category: architectural technology and design – secondary
School: Abbotsford Collegiate
Residence/Hometown: Abbotsford

Name: Colby Crawford
Teammate(s): Alex Jackson
Medal: Silver
Category: 3D character computer animation – secondary
School: Robert Bateman secondary
Residence/Hometown: Abbotsford

Name: Shaun Greene
Medal: Silver
Category: Information technology (IT) and network support – post secondary
School: University College of the Fraser Valley
Residence/Hometown: Abbotsford

Name: Sandy Gum
Medal: Silver
Category: Women's apparel design – secondary
School: Eric Hamber secondary
Residence/Hometown: Vancouver

Name: Dane Hansen
Medal: Silver
Category: Electronics – secondary
School: Georges P. Vanier secondary
Residence/Hometown: Courtenay

Name: Neil Hawkes
Medal: Gold
Category: Cabinetmaking – secondary
School: Nanaimo District secondary
Residence/Hometown: Nanaimo

-more-

Name: Dylan Hutchinson
Teammate(s): Tyler Ballantyne, Philip Biebach and Owen Remmen
Medal: Silver
Category: Robotics – secondary
School: Georges P. Vanier secondary
Residence/Hometown: Courtenay

Name: Alex Jackson
Teammate(s): Colby Crawford
Medal: Silver
Category: 3D character computer animation – secondary
School: Robert Bateman secondary
Residence/Hometown: Abbotsford

Name: Jesse Maitland
Medal: Bronze
Category: Electronics – post secondary
School: North Island College
Residence/Hometown: Campbell River

Name: Caitlin Mayo
Medal: Bronze
Category: Baking – secondary
School: R.E. Mountain secondary
Residence/Hometown: Surrey

Name: Kevin Pencer
Medal: Silver
Category: Electrical wiring – secondary
School: North Surrey Learning Centre
Residence/Hometown: Surrey

Name: Chad Poon
Medal: Bronze
Category: Welding – secondary
School: Robert A. McMath secondary
Residence/Hometown: Richmond

Name: Owen Remmen
Teammate(s): Tyler Ballantyne, Philip Biebach and Dylan Hutchinson
Medal: Silver
Category: Robotics – secondary
School: Georges P. Vanier secondary
Residence/Hometown: Merville

Name: Bradley Kenneth Sanders
Medal: Silver
Category: Workplace safety – secondary
School: Lord Tweedsmuir secondary
Residence/Hometown: Surrey

Name: Christina Van
Medal: Bronze
Category: Website development – secondary
School: Rutland Senior secondary
Residence/Hometown: Kelowna

Name: Brett Williams
Medal: Bronze
Category: Mechanical computer-aided design and drafting (CADD) – secondary
School: Sardis secondary
Residence/Hometown: Sardis

-30-

Media contact:
Lara Perzoff
Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963
250 920-9040 (cell)

Corinna Filion
Communications Manager
Advanced Education
250 952-6400
250 812-7977 (cell)

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.